



WHOLESALE

RETAIL

M. A. Smith

REGISTERED PLUMBER

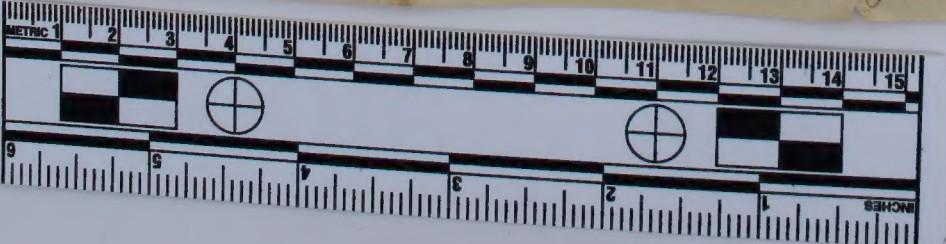
ESTIMATES FURNISHED
ALL WORK GUARANTEED

SANITARY PLUMBING IN
ALL ITS BRANCHES

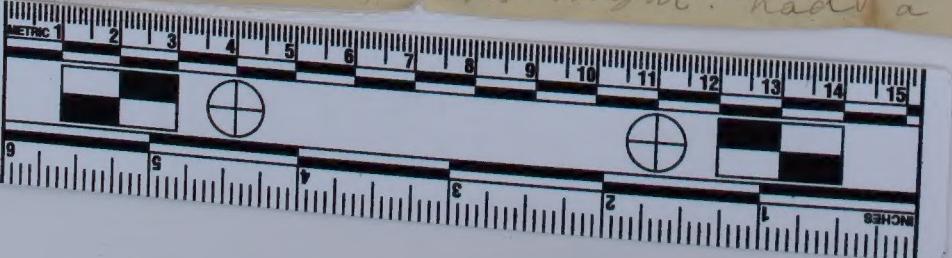
Atascadero, California April 20 1916

"Dear Grandis & the whole dam family"

Well old pal I guess you think I am the limit, and I guess I am. It seems I don't have time to write. Although I think about you folks every day & say I must write to you, but you know how that goes. But I am on the job now, so here she goes. To begin with. The colony is on the fence, don't know which side to drop on, neither do we. Everything is at a standstill, nothing doing, no body in the stores or on the streets, women has big money to go to the store with. I really don't know what will become of all these old maids & ladies here. & lots of others are in want, down to their last cent. It is bad. I feel sorry for some of these old people here. There wouldn't be many left here, if they could all sell, that wants to. Mr. F has been very fortunate. Billie is working most of the time. He has the big jobs on hand now, & is figuring Mrs. Thompsons house (Helen Schubers mother) They have a garage up near Balderson. There has been lots of houses gone up since you left, Mr. F. has built a good many out the State Highway & is building his own out there. He has a good road. But he didn't get any money out the Co. any faster than he can. So just Mrs. Brown's house is finished & up for sale. She is frantic to get out of here & so is he. They are crazy to go to Los Angeles. Can you find them a buyer? She has no use for this place now & had some of our high priced office men had the pink slip handed to them. Mr. Taylor, Klemath, Seward, Clegg & Wilkinson, and there are a whole lot more that ought to get it. There



poor old hen here, have been helping to pay their salary.
I don't think I ever saw such a bunch of ~~ducks~~ in
my life as there is gathered here. Half of more
of these people will lose their homes. They can't make
any money here to make their payments with. I'll tell
you and glad that you didn't build here last summer.
The Balderson, Milan Cos. contractors, are building a brick
house for Miss Moore next to Dorn on the high way. Cholly
is very much infatuated with one of the Nicholson girls.
He has been going with her a long time. He has built
himself a new spring outfit in clothes, & furnished his
own room at Mrs. McCorlough's. The but he is
the candy kid. I told Mrs. Balderson what I thought
of him. That he better pay us & other bills before
posting himself up. So she "telegraphed" the news
to Phoenix, so now he is in love with me, nit, and
Balderson just acts like a child. Lets Chas. do all
the washing & big. & he doesn't go ahead to do anything
another (ducks) Billie is doing their plumbing. Balderson brother
& his wife & boy are here from Los Angeles. He is a
plumber, but he is plowing for the Colony. Mr.
Hunter is still in the store. They live in Petersen's
house. They have not built yet. I work in the store
at odd times & on sale days. I have been working in
the office too. Expect to start again soon.
Well Mrs. B. & I went to Grandma England funeral
yesterday. Mrs. Johnson took her over to her house this
past winter to take care of her. She has been an
invalid all winter. Mrs. Johnson's oldest daughter is
home. Johnsons are my best friends, we visit all
the time. Wil Roberts went down to Los. a couple
of weeks ago & got a second auto. & drove back up.
They crossed the river last week, camping
near Mrs. Ensign, across the bridge to the right.
No one on our camp ground. The others camped
camped all winter. Van Doren & Crooks went
to Arizona. Billie & I took a trip to San Luis Obispo
last Sat & stayed over night. Had a good time.



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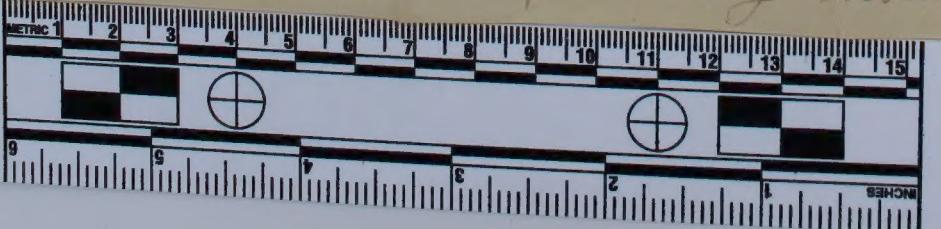
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Atascadero, California

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My old friend Mrs. Eaton is still here. They are trying very hard to sell & get away. Mrs. More is sick in bed. Has been for two weeks. The assembly tent was blown down last night. They have church in the school house. All work on the Administrative bldg. has been shut down for months. don't know when they will ever start. By the way Grandie, will you send me the films of those pictures we took up to Johnsons & J.B. & in Johnsville. We would like to print some. & you said you would send me a pictures of her girls. but your memory is failing you. I think. Well I must tell you of my loss. Poor little Laurabelle was struck by an auto & killed. Billie & I am just sick over it. She was so big & pretty, smart as a cricket. I have her hide & tanned it. I miss her terribly. How are all the girls & Boys & Cate. Helen you wrote me a very nice little letter. This letter will have to do for you too. Glad you girls had such a nice Xmas & got so many nice presents. You were quite lucky to sell all the supr. No Dragian didn't last long after Daddy left. He took a trip up to the Fair. & isn't doing anything now. says if he had money enough he would go to Los A. How is Daddy & is he working? I hope so. They say that things are picking up down there. We have been thinking about if things fell thru' here we would take a trip down there with & let us know what you think. I would love to see you all today & have a big chow. The rag." We had terrible hot weather in March. The wind has been blowing again for 3 days. & we have a white frost every morning. It has.



S. JAMES JOHN

wiped lots of garden & fruit. The river has just a
little water in it now. He certainly had fun in it.
last summer playing follow the leader. We never
hear nothing from them. Barkers are crazy to sell
& get away too. They are our neighbors. Davis & Carter
dissolved partnership. Carter left here. We have fine
times playing & singing. Mr. Barker & I both play the
violin. Mrs. Brown the piano, so we have lots of
fun. Are the girls taking lessons now. Ask Daddy
how he would like to have a piece of corn
bread? He had great times cooking over there.
Our old Jay comes again now 3 times a week. I
will be glad when the butcher starts. Every thing
has gone up here something frightfull. Well well
Sunday is Easter. I wish you were when we could
go to some nice big church when they had
a fine choir & a good speaker. Chas. Brazil said Mr.
Balderson told him to buy them dishes. I suppose
your flower garden is beautiful now. There are lots
of wild flowers here. I'll tell you men all glad to
be home again & in a comfortable house. I am
sick of this life, I will be tickled to death to
live in a real house again. I have some new
Middy suits. The hills are begining to get burned & brown
already. Well I hope we will be able to take our
trip down there & see you all some of these days.
Have you got a cow now? Mrs. Brown sends her
regards & hopes to see you down there some day.
Well girls I have no hair dresser here. I certainly
do miss you all. Jim Grandie old kid you will
forgive me now. after writing this young newspaper
won't you? & be sure that you don't forget to
answer this. Billie sends best wishes to you all.
Well I must close & get dinner. with best
wishes & love to all.

Regards to Daddy, Your old pal

Smithie.

